

## 436 1 - The Old Hatred

Once again our television screens are filled with images of anguished Gazans weeping over the deaths of their loved ones at the hands of Israeli bombs and missiles. News reporters representing the “mainstream media” (MSM), with those at the BBC reliably taking the lead, foster the long-running narrative: that Israel and the Jews are a merciless, wicked, monstrous Goliath, against which are pitted the “Palestinians”, the plucky little David bravely struggling against this vile foe. One recent example by a BBC reporter makes the point - “Israel has attacked Gaza overnight and Hamas are retaliating with rockets”. Such a statement is 100% back to front as the reporter knows very well, but the anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian narrative carries on regardless.

It is easy for us to give a “There they go again” shrug, but we must do our best to understand what is going on, spiritually, scripturally and politically. For, as is mentioned when relevant in these Reflections, in the counsels of Almighty God the Jews, Israel, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount remain at the epicentre of the numerous yet-to-be-fulfilled promises in God’s Word. So we now make a start in putting these current dreadful events into their wider context.

We begin with the long list of “Dramatis Personae” in the deeply troubled Middle East. First is Almighty God Himself, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer and Judge, and nothing happens in this universe without His foreknowledge and without His allowance or direction. Next is Satan, the “adversary”, whose doom is sealed yet whose malign string-pulling continues behind the scenes (Ephesians 6.10-12). Then come human beings in general, all of whom, with One Exception, “have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3.23) – comprising political, religious and military leaders and media personnel, and, last but far from least, the “common people” across the nations who are mostly just trying to get on with their lives, and who always bear the brunt when conflict flares.

Next we home in on the Jews, now back in their ancestral homeland against all conceivable odds after two thousand years of scattering and persecution, still largely in unbelief over Yeshua their Messiah, still largely a “stiffnecked and rebellious people” (Deuteronomy 9.6-7), but still by God’s grace “the apple of His eye” (Zechariah 2.8).

Finally comes Islam: late on to the scene; threadbare in terms of truth-credentials; with a track record of bloody conquest; with a visceral hatred

taught within the Qur'an of Christians and especially of Jews (a case of "the old hatred", as in Ezekiel 25.15, originating with Ishmael and Isaac); and with longstanding, deep-seated, often violent, schisms among its adherents.

The ownership of "Palestine", with Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, is clearly crucial. Scripturally, all of it undoubtedly belongs in perpetuity to the Jews, being God's gift to His covenant people "for an everlasting possession" (egs., Genesis 12.1-3,7; 13.14-17; 17.1-8 / Deuteronomy 32.48-49; 34.1-4 / II Samuel 7.22-29). So – is this God's Word, or not?! This ownership was recognised in the 1917 Balfour Declaration (wrought in God's providence by Bible-believers in the British Cabinet), and subsequently by the League of Nations, whose Palestinian Mandate of 1923 finally assigned to the future Jewish state (initially a much larger area had been envisaged) - "all of the land from Mount Hermon in the north, to the Red Sea in the south, and from the Jordan River in the east, to the Mediterranean in the west", thus including the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley as vital defensive positions. However in 1947 the United Nations reduced this mandated Israeli territory even more, leaving Israel with indefensible borders and leaving Judea and Samaria in Arab hands.

At the birth of the state of Israel in 1948, after the British had left (regrettably, with shame and in haste), five Arab armies attacked, intent on strangling Israel at its birth. Crucially Arab leaders told the Arabs living in what was now a Jewish state (with full citizenship rights), to leave their homes temporarily while the fighting was done, and then to return when "Israel" was no more. Herein lies the origin of one of the great myths since repeated by "the Palestinians" - that the Jews expelled the Arabs from their homes and lands, leaving them as refugees ever since.

Israel only just survived. At the 1949 ceasefire Jordan was left occupying east Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria, which Jordan then renamed "the West Bank" so as to efface the Jewish connection with the land. So, as Hugh Fitzgerald, a writer for "Jihad Watch", explains, "When Israel took possession of the "West Bank" after the 1967 Six-Day War, this did not create its legal, historic, and moral claim to land where Jews had lived for 3,500 years, but allowed the Jewish state to finally enforce its pre-existing claim granted in the Palestinian Mandate of 1923". The media routinely term this "West Bank" as the "Occupied Territories", but Israel has the backing of God's Word and the Palestine Mandate to

demonstrate otherwise, hence its building of many Jewish settlements in “Judea and Samaria”.

Still to come, God willing – Jerusalem, Iran, Hamas, “Palestinians”, Arafat, Abbas, Netanyahu, Biden ... Meanwhile for us all, Psalm 122 in earnest, lifted to God the Father - in the Name of Yeshua Himself.

**2021 Faithful Sheep Ministries – [www.fsmins.org](http://www.fsmins.org)**